

**CLERGY**

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain  
 Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain  
 Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

The parish office should be your first port of call for any enquiries, including appointments, and arrangements for all sacraments (e.g. baptisms, weddings, funerals). Please email Karin Rattray, the Parish Secretary, at [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) or call on 020 8546 4633. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (closed Wednesdays). Could you please limit telephone calls outside these hours to emergencies only. Thank You.

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>**

6.30pm Edward & John Lovekyn RIP

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

9am Benson Mwangi Mahugu RIP

10.30am Thomas Finnegan RIP

6.30pm The Catechumen & Candidate of the Parish

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Holy Souls

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am James Corcoran RIP

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Zoran Popovic RIP

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Wellbeing of Anthony Cotmore  
 Patricia Cotmore RIP

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick, Bishop, Patron Saint of Ireland, Feast**

9.30am Bern White RIP

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Mary Frances MacDonald RIP

**Exposition:** Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.

**Morning Prayer:** Monday to Saturday 9am.

**Confessions:** Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.

**Morning Prayer:** Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM

**Mass Times:** Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass)  
 Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30

**Baptisms:** Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.

**Marriages:** Six months' notice required, Diocesan rule

**LIFTS TO MASS**

If you could occasionally offer someone a lift to any of the Masses, that you normally attend, please could you kindly contact Karin in the Parish office to discuss further. We have a couple of parishioners who are unable to get to Mass due to mobility issues but live just a few roads away and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to come to Mass, even just occasionally. *Thank you!*

**BRITISH SUMMER TIME**

Please remember that the clocks go forward one hour in the early hours of **Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March**; Sunday Mass will feel one hour earlier than usual!



Change your  
**CLOCKS**  
 and your



**SMOKE DETECTOR  
 BATTERIES!**



**CAFOD LENTEN COLLECTION**

*Thank for your contributions to the CAFOD Lenten Collection last weekend. There is still time to give your support.*

Your donations to CAFOD's Lenten Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

Give today using a CAFOD envelope or on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give> and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world. Please use the envelopes available in the church porch or pop your donations in the red bucket. The special envelopes for this collection enable tax payers to also gift-aid their donations.

Thank you for your continued support to CAFOD

**ARCHDIOCESE LAUNCHES CARITAS SOUTHWARK**

Archbishop John Wilson, announces the launch of Caritas Southwark this weekend in a pastoral letter to the faithful of the Archdiocese. "I share with you the wonderful news that we are about to launch Caritas Southwark. Caritas is the Latin word for love and Caritas Southwark will be our Archdiocesan network to co-ordinate our practical loving service of others, putting faith into action." Recognising that the church has always served the poorest and the weakest, through parishes and schools, not to mention social and charitable projects and organisations, Archbishop Wilson says: "in such challenging times, it is important that we strengthen and enhance our charitable outreach, rooted in our faith in Christ. This will build on the excellent work already taking place and provide encouragement and support for new initiatives.

Caritas Southwark is about facilitation and collaboration, building up our common bond of charity through a more considered identity whereby our archdiocese can promote and recognise faith in action.

Caritas Southwark will be formally launched on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March with a Mass in St George's Cathedral at 12:30pm. The organisation will work with Southwark's parishes and schools to support them in serving those in need. Our volunteers have worked hard to get us to this point. Everyone is invited to the Mass and the reception afterwards. Team effort; Archbishop Wilson stresses that helping those in need is not the responsibility of any one group: "this is a time for all of us, clergy, religious, and lay faithful, to pray and reflect on the scriptures, strengthened by the eucharist, so as to discern how we live out the call to see and serve the Lord Jesus in our brothers and sisters in need. To all who already give their time and effort so generously in voluntary service to the church's social mission, I extend my heartfelt gratitude."

You can visit the official website for the Archdiocese of Southwark for more details and to read the full pastoral letter: <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/events/inaugural-mass-and-launch-of-caritas-southwark>



**Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A**  
**Sunday, March 12, 2023**

**Gospel Reading**

*John 4:5-42*

*Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well. (shorter form: John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42)*

**Gospel Reflection**

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have travelled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is

social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

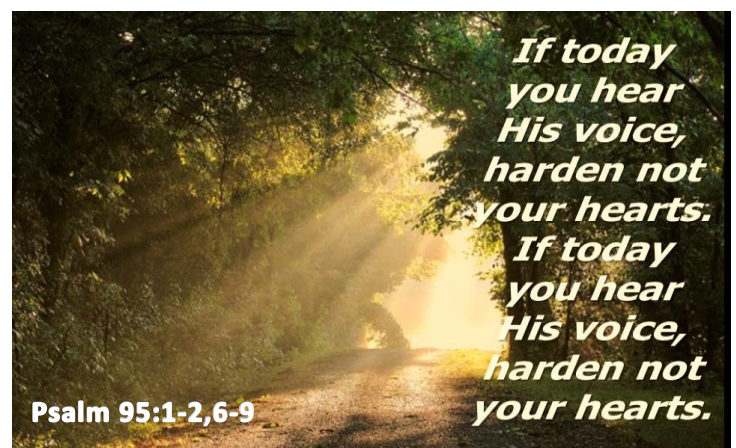
The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

**Family Reflection**

Lent is a season for repentance. It is a season during which we are called to reflect upon and to live deeply the promises of Baptism. The well and the conversation about water immediately recall for us the Sacrament of Baptism. As the Samaritan woman was converted and sent on a mission because of the conversation about water, we too are converted and sent by our Baptism to preach the good news of Jesus to others.

Take this opportunity to reflect upon the importance of Baptism with your family. If you have photos or other mementos of your family's Baptisms, bring them out and take some time to recall the day of Baptism and its importance to you and your family. Create a prayer table that includes these mementos and a bowl of holy water. After you have spent some time talking about Baptism, invite everyone to listen carefully and prayerfully to today's Gospel. Read John 4:5-42 together. Ask how Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well is like Baptism. (Jesus knows the woman's sin and forgives her. The woman comes to know Jesus as the Messiah. The woman invites others to meet Jesus.) Pray a prayer of blessing for each member of the family that God will help each one live the promises of his or her Baptism. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press





### +++ LATELY DEAD+++

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Colette Hickey, who died on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 aged 86. Her requiem will take place on here on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 12pm

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

+++ 'Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.' +++

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle and Marie Chlebeckova. Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.

### HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are sick and/or housebound, our Priests would be happy to visit you, to pray with you, and to bring you Holy Communion in your home, please do let the Parish Office know; home visits are by request. If you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass but who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Priests.

### LET US REMEMBER

Let us remember those who have died recently or those whose anniversaries occur at this time, and all their families, with love and affection during this time of grief. May the Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

### ANNIVERSARIES

*John Dignum, Helen Halden, Edna Morgan, Daniel Cremin, Richard de Kerckhove, Josephine May, Edith Anne Connellan, Forbes Stimson, Ann Elizabeth Harding, Agnes Hall, Winifred O'Connor, Timothy Malone, Alphonse Schembri, Gerry Byrne, Herbert Lewis, Thomas Francis Mulcahy, Mary Pickard, Rita Da Silva, Aaron Bennett, Mary Chisholm, Virginio Anghileri, Anne Lally, Frederic Leo Strawson, John McSorley, Robert Thomas Amon Kotei, Patricia Scott, Maria Winifred Taylor, Alfred Shoppee, Charles Kaufman, Mary Letitia Lally, William Kitchen, Joseph William Kilkenny.* +++*May They Rest In Peace* +++

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 NINE DAY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

On the 1st Sunday after Easter the entire Church is called to gather throughout the world to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. From St Maria Faustina's Diary it is clear that this Octave Day on Easter is the day chosen by Christ as a day of extraordinary graces - a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith.

*How to observe the Feast of Mercy*

1. Go to confession, preferably before that Sunday
2. Place your complete trust in Jesus
3. Celebrate the Feast
4. Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast
5. Venerate the Image of Divine Mercy
6. Be merciful to others, through your actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

In the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, Jesus asked that the **Feast of Divine Mercy**, known today as **Divine Mercy Sunday**, be preceded by a **Novena to The Divine Mercy**. A Novena is nine days of prayer in preparation for a feast. To properly celebrate this great day, we need to prepare well. As a Parish we are encouraging everyone to make a Novena to The Divine Mercy and pray the Chaplet.

'Jesus instructed St Faustina to write down and make (the Novena & Chaplet) before the Feast of Mercy. It begins on Good Friday' (Diary 1209 - 1229). Divine Mercy pamphlets are available in the church porch. (Cost 50p each).



### LENT AND HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Our Lent and Holy Week Programme is available in the church porch. It is also available on the Parish website: [www.stagathaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)

### CTS BOOKLETS

Our CTS rack in the church porch has various booklets available to purchase, including some suitable spiritual reading for Lent; do have a look at what is on offer today. The price for each booklet can be found on the back. Monies should be put in the wall box marked "papers".

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Throughout Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held on Tuesdays at 7pm and Friday mornings after the Morning Mass. This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord. Everyone is welcome.

### EXPOSITION AND ADORATION DURING LENT AND LENTEN RECONCILIATION

The church will be open on Wednesday evenings during Lent from 7pm - 8pm for Exposition and Adoration. (15th, 22nd and 29th March).

This is a beautiful opportunity for quiet prayer and adoration. Please come for as long you can, be it 5 or 10 minutes or the whole hour, everyone is welcome. Reconciliation will also be available on these dates during this time.

### EASTER SPRING CLEAN

This year our dedicated Easter Spring Cleaning morning will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023, from 10am. There are a variety of tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to give up a few hours of their time to help us. A sign-up sheet is available in the church porch for volunteers to sign up or please email the parish office. (Even if you can only spare an hour or two, Fathers would really appreciate!) refreshments and all cleaning products will be provided. Everyone is welcome, teens especially, those aged 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult please.

*We would also like to ensure the church grounds are looking their best too and we would welcome anyone who can bring a few spring plants or flowers along for the front gardens and help to plant them. Again, please get in touch with the Parish Secretary if you would like to help out. Please bring your favourite garden tools and gardening gloves!*

### RENEWED IN HOPE DIOCESAN ONLINE RETREAT

*A retreat for Lent 2023, introduced by Archbishop John Wilson, led by members of the Spirituality Commission.*

The Archdiocese of Southwark is offering a retreat experience for individuals and parishes during Lent 2023.

For more details and to register follow this link:

<https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/renewedbyhope>

## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

### RCIA: CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES!

We extend warm congratulations to our five Catechumens and one Candidate who attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023. These men and women, Elect as they are now called, have been participating in our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program and Archbishop Wilson has accepted them as being ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. During the season of Lent, they enter into a time of personal preparation that concludes at the Easter Vigil on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April.



The Elect now begin their final period of "purification and enlightenment" before the Easter Vigil. Over the next three Sundays, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent, our Catechumen and Candidate will join us as we celebrate special rites called the "Scrutinies" during Mass (Sundays at 6.30pm). They are part of a series of rites belonging to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) that are celebrated during the season of Lent. Essentially these rites are composed of prayers of intercession and the laying on of hands so that the Holy Spirit may be invoked and the spirit of evil cast out. They are celebrated purposefully at Mass, so that the whole congregation is given the opportunity to pray for and support those preparing for the Easter sacraments and to make the point that conversion is not only a personal matter but a communal commitment.

Please pray for each of them as they prepare to be received into full communion in the Catholic Church!

### CONFIRMATION 2023

Session 3 is being held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023. 7.15-8.30pm. Session 4 is on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023.



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

The next session (6) will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm.

Please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.



Our subsequent classes will be held Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Parents must attend a Baptism preparation class before a child's baptism, and it is recommended that Godparents also attend.

### MARRIAGES IN 2023 and 2024

2023 or 2024 may be the year that you plan to get married; many *Congratulations* if that is so. **Please remember that there is a lot of preparation that needs to take place and you are required to inform the church at least six months before the intended date.**

If you plan to celebrate your wedding at another church all preparation for our parishioners must take place here at St. Agatha's.

Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.



### SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

A fourth delivery of donations has successfully been delivered to the Dons; again, they were very grateful for your continued generosity! Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, such as pasta, rice, cereals, tea and coffee UHT milk, tins of vegetable, fruit, soup and also pet food and toiletry items such as toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant. Please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, eggs or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life. The donations box will be left in the church porch and as donations accumulate, they will then be delivered.

*Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

### A SPECIAL PRAYER INITIATIVE FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' PONTIFICATE

On 13<sup>th</sup> March, Pope Francis will be celebrating ten years of his pontificate. To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "viral" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a [special online map](#) featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him. Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Marys. <https://www.decimus-annus.org/it>

### THE CATHOLIC UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

Dear friends, a new inquiry has been launched by the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights into human rights at work and we need your help to respond.

Part of the inquiry is considering freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and freedom of expression in the workplace. It includes questions on whether our law strikes the right balance between employee rights to freedom of religion or belief and the rights of employers.

It is vital that there is a strong response from lay Catholics to this inquiry as there are increasing reports about it being difficult to be a faithful and open Catholic in the workplace.

To help shape the Catholic Union's evidence to the inquiry, we're asking our members and supporters to share their views and experiences with us. We would be very grateful if you could spare a few moments of your time to complete our survey on religion in the workplace. The responses will form the basis of our written evidence to the inquiry. If you have had a positive or negative experience of faith at work, we want to hear from you.

Additionally, the Catholic Union is encouraging those with a particular interest or expertise to submit evidence directly to the Committee, which is made up of a cross-party group of MPs and peers. The Committee is expected to report and make recommendations to the UK Government later this year.

Please [click here](#) to take our survey. The closing date is 20 March 2023. <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2023/03/catholic-union-launches-religion-in-the-workplace-survey>



"Fasting helps us to keep our spirit in shape. It makes us appreciate things for their true worth; it reminds us that life must not be made dependent upon the fleeting landscape of the present world." ~ Pope Francis